CLAIMS

1. A method of transferring data packets between a server environment and a client, said method comprising:

receiving a data packet from a stack in said server environment;

sending an acknowledgment packet to said stack; and

transmitting said data packet across an I/O bus in said server environment, wherein said acknowledgment packet is sent to said stack without sending said acknowledgment packet across said I/O bus.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said data packets comprise TCP/IP data packets.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing information regarding said transmitted data packet in a network interface card.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising transmitting said data packet across a network from said server environment to said client.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising said network interface card monitoring acknowledgment packets regarding said data packet from said client.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising recognizing an error condition if said acknowledgment packet regarding said transmitted data packet is not receiving from said client.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising transmitting an indication of said error condition across said I/O bus.

8. A method of transferring data packets between a server and a client, said method comprising:

acknowledging a data packet based on a driver mechanism of said server receiving said data packet; and

transmitting said data packet across an I/O bus to a component of said server; and

storing information regarding said data packet at said component.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising transmitting said data packet across a network from said server to said client.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising said component monitoring an acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet from said client.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising recognizing an error condition if said component does not receive said acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet from said client.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising transmitting an indication of said error condition across said I/O bus.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein said data packet is acknowledged without sending an acknowledgment packet across said I/O bus.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein said data packet comprise a TCP/IP data packet.

15. A server environment comprising:

an operating system having a stack mechanism and a driver mechanism;

a network interface card; and

a I/O bus coupled between said operating system and said network interface card, wherein said driver mechanism to transmit a data packet across said I/O bus to said network interface card and said driver mechanism to send an acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet to said stack mechanism without transmitting said acknowledgment packet across said I/O bus.

16. The server environment of claim 15, wherein said data packet comprises a TCP/IP data packet.

17. The server environment of claim 15, wherein said network interface card to store information regarding said data packet transmitted across said I/O bus from said driver mechanism.

18. The server environment of claim 17, wherein said network interface card to transmit said data packet across a network to a client.

19. The server environment of claim 18, wherein said network interface card to monitor an acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet from said client.

20. The server environment of claim 19, wherein said network interface card to generate an error condition if said acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet is not received from said client.

21. The server environment of claim 20, wherein said network interface card to transmit said error condition across said I/O bus to said driver mechanism.

22. A network interface card comprising:

a mechanism to communicate across an I/O bus so as to receive data packets;

a memory device to store information regarding said received data packets; and

a mechanism to communicate across a network so as to transmit said received data packets to a remote system and to receive an acknowledgment packet from said remote system across said network.

23. The network interface card of claim 22, further comprising an error indicating mechanism to recognize an error condition if said acknowledgment packet regarding said data packet transmitted across said network is not received from said remote system.

24. The network interface card of claim 22, wherein said data packets comprise TCP/IP data packets.